



SATURDAY EVENING, FEB. 12, 1910.

A BILL is pending in the legislature having already passed one branch we believe, which provides for the retention of the services of ex-Attorney General Anderson to look after the interest of the state in the Virginia-West Virginia debt settlement case now before the United States Supreme Court. The amount to be paid General Anderson by the state, under the provisions of the bill is \$10,000. General Anderson no doubt is well versed in the details of this matter and his services would be quite valuable but why he should be paid for such services by the state is not at all plain. As we understand the situation the matter is a case between the holders of the bond certificates issued against West Virginia and West Virginia herself. The present legislature of Virginia, as a matter of fact, has nothing to do with the case, as will be seen by the following act approved March 6, 1894:

It is resolved by the Senate of Virginia (the House of Delegates concurring), that a commission of seven members is hereby created and provided for, of whom the present chairman of the committee on finance and banks of the Senate shall be one, and the present chairman of the committee on finance of the House of Delegates shall be another; of the other five, two shall be chosen by the Senate from among the persons now members of that body; two by the House of Delegates from among the persons now members of that body; and one, to be a resident of this state, shall be appointed by the governor. No member of said commission shall cease to be a member thereof by reason of ceasing to be a member of the general assembly.

Said commission shall choose its own chairman and secretary; vacancies therein occurring or existing during recess of the legislature shall be filled by the governor on a notification thereof by the chairman; and a majority of said commission shall be competent to act.

Said commission is hereby authorized and directed to negotiate with the state of West Virginia a settlement and adjustment of the proportion of the public debt of the original state of Virginia, proper, to be borne by West Virginia.

But said commission shall not proceed with said negotiation until assurances satisfactory to the commission shall have been received from the holders of a majority in amount of said certificates, exclusive of those held by the state through the agency of the board of education and sinking fund commissioners, that they desire the said commission to enter into and undertake such negotiation, and will accept the amount so ascertained to be paid by the state of West Virginia in full settlement of the one-third of the debt of the original state of Virginia which has not been assumed by the present state of Virginia.

Said commission shall enter into any negotiation hereunder except upon the basis that Virginia is bound only for the two-thirds of the debt of the original state which she has already provided for as her equitable proportion thereof.

All expenses incurred by said commission and said board of arbitrators, including reasonable compensation to the members thereof, shall be paid out of the proceeds of such settlement, or by the holders of said certificates who are the beneficiaries of such settlement, but without subjecting the state to any expense on this account.

And their action shall be subject to the approval or disapproval of the general assembly, and shall not be binding on the state until approved by the general assembly. The governor is requested to communicate this joint resolution to the governor and legislature of West Virginia.

This joint resolution shall be in force from its passage.

By this act it is positively provided that all expenses incurred by the commission, which now has the case well in hand, "shall be paid out of the proceeds of such settlement or by the holders of said certificates, who are the beneficiaries of such settlement, but without subjecting the state to any expense on this account." This being the case why should this legislature expend \$10,000 of the people's money for nothing? Should General Anderson's services be required by the commission authorized to settle the debt matter, the commission has full power to employ him and to pay him his fee, but not with the state's money.

Once more the House committee on appropriations, in the annual pension bill, recommends that the 17 pension agencies throughout the country be abolished and all pensions paid from the agency in Washington. The salary of the pension agents is \$4,000 a year and by dropping 17 of them from the rolls and closing their offices, it is calculated the government would save about \$200,000 a year. This is the third or fourth time the appropriations committee has recommended that all the agencies but that in Washington be dropped. The House has voted to follow the recommendation each time, but the Senate invariably undoes the work of the House. "This year," says Chairman Tawney, of the appropriations committee, "I believe we will turn the trick. If we don't we will keep up the fight until we win." But Mr. Tawney will find that the G. A. R. has sufficient influence in the Senate to prevent the abolition of a single one of the useless pension agencies.

SECRETARY OF STATE KNOX was subjected to some very caustic criticism in the House yesterday by Representative Francis Burton Harrison, of New York, during consideration of the diplomatic and consular appropriation bill. Many bold strokes in diplomacy, said Mr. Harrison, were justified only by their success, as in the instance of President Cleveland's Venezuelan message. But that had not been the case with some of the bold strokes of diplomacy made by Secretary Knox, he said. The Nicaragua intrigue, the Manchurian railway matter and the secretary's declaration that he would make it his duty to see that democratic forms of government should be maintained in Central America, he said, were examples of failure in the diplomacy of Mr. Knox. There had been an obvious difficulty in procuring men of proper character and ability to serve the United States abroad, said Mr. Harrison, who continued.

The French mission was vacant for months until a man of proper caliber could be found. Take Andre, where a man (R. O. Keene), has been sent to represent the United States after having his status for the position measured chiefly by the size of his campaign contribution. Take the English mission. After that position had been declined publicly by a noted educator (Dr. Eliot) it had been offered by a New York newspaper to Paul Morton, and if Mr. Morton is appointed that act will be to award a self-confessed violator of law, and it will become patent to all the world that the path of the rebater is to lead to the foot of the throne. Today the ambassadors are too often messengers boys in silk knee breeches with swords, who spend their time being photographed as the hosts of royalty or in playing the part of hands across the sea.

Other governments have schools of diplomacy, and consequently send trained men as their representatives.

The senate committee on laws and legislation, in public hearing in New York on Thursday on the resolution providing for the tagging of beef carcasses and packages of other provisions when put in storage and when taken out, heard charges that turkeys have been left in cold storage for two years until they were mouldy, and that good fish has been sold to customers as spring lamb. Packers who were present to oppose the resolution frankly said that exigencies of the business put eggs, chickens and turkeys in cold storage from six to nine months, and that were they not so stored the New York public would at certain seasons, notably late spring, face a famine in these commodities and famine prices. Ye Gods! and this is the way the packers attempt to make the worse the better reason.

By consent of the Baltimore and Ohio and Harrisonburg authorities the department at that place has been settled. The Baltimore and Ohio has agreed to build by August 15 a new station which will cost \$30,000. The order was entered on Thursday by the State Corporation Commission. So far the State Corporation Commission has not been asked to require the railroads to build a depot in Alexandria.

From Washington.

Correspondence of the Alexandria Gazette, Washington, February 12.

Everything was quiet about the Capitol today, this being Lincoln's birthday. Neither house of Congress was in session. Orders were sent to the navy yards at New York, Philadelphia, Norfolk and Boston to send vessels in search of the tug Nina, which is missing. She left Norfolk last Sunday for Boston and has not been heard from since leaving Chesapeake Bay. The Nina is a tug of 357 tons displacement and serves as a tender to the third submarine division. She is commanded by chief boatswain John S. Groghan and has a crew of 28 men.

Every railroad system in the country maintains an army of claim agents, according to testimony given the House committee on interest and foreign commerce today, and the busy officers and privates of the big organization hustle to such good purpose that very few claims get into court. R. L. Calkins, head of the claim department of the New York Central testified that he settled claims amounting to more than \$1,000,000 a year. He is at the head of what is known as the claims committee of the New York Central system. This committee consists of 8 claim agents, each representing one of the individual lines of the system, and under them are some 500 smaller claim agents—the young men who really do the hard work. All the larger railroads of the country and most of the smaller ones are represented in the Freight Claim Association, an organization formed for the purpose of exchanging ideas as to the best ways and means of settling claims without the assistance of the courts. Calkins said the association had been so successful that within the last few years claims had been settled all over the United States much more promptly than ever before.

"Isn't it a fact," asked Representative Townsend, "that some roads never pay a claim until they have to—that they put off payments until the last possible moment?" "Yes, it is," the witness admitted, "but the number of that sort is growing smaller all the time. The railroads are coming to the realization of the fact that the sooner a claim is paid the better it is for the railroad and the claimant. Asked if his road was not often called upon to pay damages for goods ever received or for goods that were improperly invoiced Calkins thought such cases were very infrequent. "Once in a while we run across a case," he said.

A bill for the purchase of fifty thousand acres of Indian land in Utah, at \$1.25 an acre, for reservoir purposes, was favorably acted upon by the Senate committee on irrigation today. The bill will be recommended to the Senate for passage.

The members of the Civil Service Commission want more money. In a statement filed with the appropriations committee of the House, Gen. John C. Black, president of the board, demonstrated that he and his colleagues are the poorest paid of any of the various com-

missions in the government employ. He is paid \$4,500 and the other two members of the board get \$4,000 each, while a large number of the other forty-five government commissioners that he enumerates, get all the way from \$5,000 to \$15,000 apiece. Gen. Black makes a modest plea for \$5,000 on behalf of himself and the other members of the board.

The Woodley Inn, a fashionable small hotel at Cathedral Heights near the National Cathedral School at Mt. St. Alban was destroyed by fire at an early hour this morning. The thirty guests had narrow escapes of their lives and lost all their belongings. The loss is about \$40,000. The guests were all well-known Washingtonians.

There is talk of adding one hour per day to the working time of the employees and clerks in the Treasury Department. The issue of government certificates to the amount of \$30,000,000 to complete irrigation projects heretofore approved by the secretary of the interior and in the constitution of necessary extension will be recommended for adoption to the Senate Monday. This action was taken today at a meeting of the Senate committee on irrigation. A certificate was added to the bill as introduced by Senator Carter (rep. Mont.), but hereafter no irrigation projects shall be run through the state on Sunday, and the Fletcher bill, for the equalization of taxes.

Three bills were passed finally: Senator Walker's bill, regarding the contract of losses for the reaction of courtrooms, clerks' offices and jails; Senator Carter's bill, allowing interstate freight trains to run through the state on Sunday, and the Fletcher bill, for the equalization of taxes.

Bills were introduced to amend section 1669 of the code in reference to the proceedings before a commission to ascertain insanity; to provide within what time and by whom the writ shall be put in case of removal or appeal from a justice and how judgment shall be entered against a surety where appeal is dismissed; and a bill concerning the charter and transactions of the General Alumni Association of the University of Virginia, and accepting the provisions of a certain deed of trust made by said association for the use and benefit of the University of Virginia.

HOUSE.

With the main idea of the Deal bill incorporated as an amendment, the Byrd measure legalizing and regulating primary elections in Virginia was reported favorably by the House committee on privileges and elections. At the same time the bills offered by Messrs. Deal and West and by the subcommittee of the democratic state committee were referred to the House with a recommendation that they do not pass.

As a result of some dissipation the speaker eliminated the feature of the bill which required all the principal political parties to participate in the elections. The committee adopted the provision of the bill offered by Mr. Deal, requiring that the electoral boards of the counties and cities select the primary election officers from a list of persons presented by the executive committee of the party for which the election is to be held.

Another amendment refers to the qualifications of voters in such elections. These voters, as in the Byrd bill, must have voted at the preceding election for the party candidate for presidential electors, congressman or governor. In addition, a person may be permitted to vote if, when questioned by the judges, he shall pledge himself to support the nominees of the party in the ensuing election.

Among the bills reported from committees were: Making the general of the state militia a member ex-officio of the boards of visitors of the Virginia Military Institute and the Virginia Polytechnic Institute, also the Byrd liquor bill as amended.

The House committee on privileges and elections favorably reported the proposed amendment to the constitution providing for payment of poll taxes ninety days prior to elections instead of sixty.

The Senate bill to enable incorporated towns and cities to contribute to the building or improvement of public roads and bridges leading to such towns and cities was passed.

The following House bill was passed: To provide for the appointment of local boards of health; to authorize the state board of health to adopt and enforce rules and regulations for the protection of the public health; to assign constables and village constables and their deputies the power and duty to arrest and to allow the killing of any dog caught in the act of worrying sheep or goats; to amend the code so as to entitle the widow to dower in the proceeds of the sale of lands sold to satisfy a lien, but to be payable out of the surplus; to prohibit the catching of bass during the spawning season; to regulate the sale of and to provide a standard of purity for agricultural seeds; to provide for the continuance of the annual tolls on turnpikes, to provide, with certain conditions, for the erection of a Confederate Memorial Institute or Battle Abbey on land known as the Soldiers' Home property; to define and punish pandering; to provide for apportionment of school funds and for taking census of children in school districts situated in more than one county; to authorize district school boards to borrow money and issue bonds to build and furnish school-houses.

Twelve million dollars will be paid to Virginia by the Federal government if the claim of the state for her reserved interest in the proceeds of land sold by the United States in the Northwest Territory is prosecuted successfully. The whole matter was fully explained and discussed last night before the House Committee on Federal Relations and Courts of Justice by Dr. R. B. Fulton, of the Miller School, who has investigated the claim at the request of Superintendent Eggleston, of the Department of Public Instruction. If the claim is recognized and approved by the United States, all of the thirteen original States will receive large sums from the government, making a total of \$50,000,000.

Pre-eminence in committees yesterday were the hearings of the Byrd bill for rearrangement of the Baylor Oyster Survey. Crowds of out-of-town visitors came to Richmond for this event, which so vitally concerns the citizens of the Tidewater section.

The Bennett "white slave" bill, regulating the traffic in immoral alien women, was passed by the Senate yesterday practically in the same form as passed by the House.

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The Legislature.

SENATE

The Fletcher tax commission bill passed the Senate and now goes to the House. It was found impossible to secure the requisite number of votes to pass the bill with the emergency clause in it, so that for time was eliminated. Only the republican members registered opposition.

The Senate devoted most of the day to another tax matter—the substitute proposed by the finance committee for the King tax commission bill. No decision was reached.

Favorable reports were made on the Leaser bill providing a tax on crabs, clamming and fishing; on the Elam bill, respecting taxes to be paid by telephone and telegraph companies, and on the subject of taxation under tangible personal property; the Parks bill, as to collateral inheritance tax; the Owen bill for parlor tax, and the House bill putting tax on water, gas and light companies.

Three bills were passed finally: Senator Walker's bill, regarding the contract of losses for the reaction of courtrooms, clerks' offices and jails; Senator Carter's bill, allowing interstate freight trains to run through the state on Sunday, and the Fletcher bill, for the equalization of taxes.

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Today's Telegraphic News

New York in a Snow Storm.

New York, Feb. 12.—For the fourth holiday since Thanksgiving day New York finds itself today drenched in snow storm. While the railroad reports that all trains are running on schedule time, there were great delays on the surface lines and on the elevated roads. The sleet on the third rail of the "L" roads precipitated many flashes of electricity, and made many passengers feel uncomfortable.

The Brooklyn bridge cars were tied up today for thirty minutes when a G. & N. car jumped the track. The weather man says that more snow is on the way. At a first early today at 241 Third avenue, thirty tenants were obliged to climb down ice covered fire escapes. No one was injured.

With twelve inches of snow on the ground and a terrific storm raging, railroad traffic east and west from Rochester, N. Y., is almost at a standstill. The forecast predicts more snow today and tomorrow, and a new mark for snow fall will be set up.

Woman Charged with Murder.

Algiers, Feb. 12.—After first attempting to conceal the identity of the slayer of S. M. L. Dacht, the Bolivian consul at Algiers, the authorities announced today that the assassin is Blanche Planchon, Dacht's former mistress. Dacht was shot to death yesterday afternoon as he was going in his car to the pier to make inquiries regarding the founding of the steamer General Charaz.

Mlle. Planchon is now in jail, almost hysterical from grief over the tragedy, the enactment of which she says she was impelled to by an irresistible power. She says she first pleaded with Dacht to right the wrong she suffered at his hands, but that he cast her off.

Dacht, in addition to being the Bolivian consul, was a rich merchant of Algiers. He was married and lived in one of the finest homes in the city. Public sympathy is with the slayer.

Fire in a Graveyard.

New York, Feb. 12.—City firemen are still talking today of the freak fire among the "marble" tombstones of Holy Trinity Cemetery, Brooklyn, which destroyed a row of the monuments last yesterday, and was well on its way to set fire to the entire burial place when discovered by a small boy and an alarm turned in.

The firemen easily put out the blaze. Upon investigation they found that the "marble" monuments were in reality frames of wood which had been treated with some preparation that looked like marble and granite. Four hundred dollars worth of the "tombstones" had been destroyed.

Mrs. Ingersoll's Suit.

Boston, Feb. 12.—Mrs. Robert O. Ingersoll, widow of R. G. Ingersoll, after years of litigation, is at last to receive \$170,000, which has been found to be due her late husband for services rendered to the estate of Andrew J. Davis, of Bitter, Mont.

Judge Hammond has affirmed the decree of the probate court ordering distribution of the Massachusetts portion of the great estate when the heirs, who have appealed from the decision of Judge Grant, of the Probate Court, failed to put in appearance. The case will now go to the Circuit Court of the United States where there is an execution in favor of Mrs. Ingersoll.

England's Political Situation.

London, Feb. 12.—That an agreement has been reached between the radicals and moderates of the liberal party was indicated today by Premier Asquith's departure for Brighton, where he is to confer with King Edward.

It was originally intended for Asquith to see King last evening, but this date was cancelled owing to the fact that at that time the two facilities had not agreed on a legislative programme.

It is not believed that Asquith would seek a conference with the sovereign at this time had the cabinet not arranged a programme for submission to the king.

Missing Men.

New York, Feb. 12.—A general police alarm was sent out today for Michael J. Gilly for two slight years on complaint of Thomas E. R. R. and for a dead body's confidential agent, who has been mysteriously missing for the past six weeks. According to a sister of the missing man, he disappeared on Christmas eve and practically no money, leaving upon the dresser of his room a check for \$1,000 from Mr. Ryan as a Christmas gift.

The financier is making every effort to find his missing confidential agent and declared through his private secretary that there is a possibility that the man has met with foul play.

Woman Suffrage.

New York, Feb. 12.—The Evening World, endeavoring to answer the question, "Do New York women want the ballot?" arranged a house to house canvass in six representative residential sections of the greater city. Out of a total of 669 women, 905 were against woman suffrage, 264 in favor and 100 non-committal.

In the aristocratic Upper West Side, the canvassers failed to find one woman who desired to vote. In a block where lived the middle classes, 5 women were against equal suffrage, 151 for and 75 non-committal. The lower East Side, inhabited by the poor, was about equally divided on the question.

Wireless Across the Atlantic.

New York, Feb. 12.—Within a month wireless messages will be transmitted between the coast of France and the eastern end of Long Island, according to a statement issued by the United Wireless Company, which today closed a contract for a long time lease for land on the extreme end of Long Island, adjoining Montauk Point. The work of installing a long distance plant there is to be begun at once.

Salvors Rescued.

New York, Feb. 12.—Through gigantic waves, laden with ice, and cut by sleet blasting at their dangling bodies, 17 men slid along a narrow line from wrecked vessels to safety on the beach at Sandy Hook, early today. They formed the crews of two fishing schooners, the Franklin B. Nelson and the Libby, which are now breaking to pieces at the life saving station.

Vessels Wrecked.

London, Feb. 12.—A dispatch to the Central News states that the sailing vessels Martini and Mathilde have been wrecked near Majors. The fate of their crews is unknown.

DRY GOODS.

Woodward and Lothrop.

New York—Washington—Paris

Girls' and Misses' Clothing.

Girls' Galatea Dresses, made in the long-waisted effect, with high neck and long sleeves; fasten in back. \$1.50 each. Value, \$2.25.

Girls' Fainicals, of tan cravenetted cloth, made full-length double-breasted style. \$5.00 and \$7.00 each.

Girls' White India Lion Dresses, 3-4 sleeves; high neck; fasten in back; sizes 6 to 14. \$1.50 each. Value, \$2.25.

Third floor—G st.

Values in Kimonos and Petticoats

Women's Silk Kimonos, in a large assortment of Japanese, Oriental, and floral designs and colorings, trimmed with satin edges. \$5.00 each. Value, \$6.50.

Women's Heavy Chin: Silk Long Kimonos, in black, navy blue, lavender, and light blue, trimmed with borders of white ribbon. \$3.75 each. Value, \$5.00.

Women's Crepe Long Kimonos, in black and navy blue, lavender, light blue, and pink, finished with pretty Persian borders. Special price, \$1.00 each.

Women's Silk Petticoats, made of good quality tulle, in several styles, with flounce of circular ruffles and tucks and flounce of a ruffled pleating. \$5.00 each. Value, \$6.50.

Third Floor—11th st.

Virginia News.

Mr. J. Wilbur Latham, of Orlington, has sold his magnificent estate to Dr. Sydney Taylor, of Roanoke, for \$61,000.

The jury in the case of Terry B. Gordon, president of the defendant Traders and Trunkers' Bank of Norfolk, charged with false statement of the bank's condition, failed to agree.

Milton Benjamin Hutchison, only son of Mr. L. W. Hutchison, and a well-known farmer of lower Loudoun, died early Thursday morning after an illness of several weeks of pneumonia, aged forty years.

Philip Eastham, 72 years old, died Wednesday at Mitchell, Curpers county. He was a native of Rappahannock county, and a former resident of Rockingham county. He fought throughout the civil war under Gen. Turner Ashby and Gen. Thomas L. Rosser.

Northern and western Virginia and Maryland were last night in the grasp of a heavy snow storm. The fall began early in the night, and soon reached a depth of more than six inches on the levels, with no signs of abatement.

Henry O. Stuart denied yesterday in Richmond that he had ever had a remote intention of entering the race for the United States Senate next year, and reiterated his former declaration that he "is and will be in the race for the governorship in 1912."

The wife of Ernest Forbes, colored, her two nieces and her child were hurried to death in Princess Anne county, yesterday. Forbes built a fire in the stove and it went out. The woman soon after suspected that something more than the fuel in the stove was afire. Rushing downstairs she found the lower part of the house in flames. She hurried back upstairs to get the sleeping children out of the house, but before she could do so her own means of escape had been cut off, and she and the children perished together.

Secretary of War Dickinson yesterday appointed a board of army officers to prepare plans for the defense of the artillery district of Chesapeake Bay. In 1906 a board prepared an elaborate report, which was adopted and which has been in effect, and it is the purpose of the board appointed yesterday to revise the existing plan and to incorporate in it such changes as have been suggested by practical experience since 1906, and have resulted from new developments and approved modifications in fire control positions since the time of the previous report.

MARINE DISASTER.

Driven helplessly from her course in one of the wildest storms that has swept the Mediterranean sea in 40 years, the French Transatlantic Steamship Company's steamer General Charaz crashed at full speed, in the dead of night, on the treacherous reefs near the island of Minorca, and all but one of the 137 persons on board perished.

The passengers of the Charaz were mostly French officers and officials returning to their post in Algeria, accompanied by their wives and children; a few soldiers, some Italians and Turks and one priest.

The General Charaz sailed from Marseilles Wednesday at noon and was due to arrive at Algiers Thursday afternoon.

BYRD MADE AGENT.

Speaker Richard E. Byrd, of the House of Delegates, was yesterday named as honorary agent for the Armour Pettibone Works, a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of New Jersey, which was granted a license to do business in Virginia by the State Corporation Commission. A written power of attorney was filed with the commission. The maximum capital authorized by the charter is \$1,000,000, and the general object and purpose is to engage in the manufacture and sale of fertilizer.

Reported Mutiny.

Belfast, Feb. 12.—Police today went aboard the English steamship Westmor, from the river Plate, in Sligo Bay, to investigate a reported mutiny aboard the vessel while in mid ocean, in which three men are said to have been killed in a bloody fight. A wireless message notified the officers and they boarded the vessel the moment she entered Sligo Bay.

Hoofa Like a Cow.

Seaford, Del., Feb. 12.—Mary Watson, an aged colored woman, of Seaford, has feet like a cow. While they retain the original shape, the bottoms and sides are covered with a bony substance about half an inch thick, very much resembling that of an animal's hoof. Several months ago, as her feet began hardening, she was compelled to leave off shoes, and during the coldest weather walks around barefooted. While she suffers considerable pain at times in the fleshy portion of the feet, she has no feeling in the new covering. Her case is one that puzzles physicians.

DRY GOODS.

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